

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOARD OF  
SELECTWOMEN'S MEETING

CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTWOMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017  
CHESTER TOWN HALL  
203 MIDDLESEX AVENUE  
CHESTER, CT

CALL TO ORDER

Lauren Gister called the regular meeting of the Chester Board of Selectwomen to order at 7:04 p.m. In attendance included First Selectwoman Gister, Selectwoman Charlene Janecek, and Selectwoman Carolyn Linn, James Schaefer, Virginia Carmany, BOF Chairman and several audience members.

Lauren Gister made a motion to add to the agenda an item entitled 'Initial Review of 2017-2018 Budget'. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 11, 2017 MINUTES

Charlene Janecek made a motion to accept the minutes from the 1/11/17 BOS meeting. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS – Courtney Chatterton, a new resident was welcomed to Chester.

**NEW BUSINESS**

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Lauren Gister presented the draft budget to the BOS. The BOE and Capital budgets were not included in the BOS's budget books. Lauren reported that the union contract is up for re-negotiation in 2017. Utility costs have not yet been determined and have been left as budgeted for last year.

The BOE has not yet had a budget workshop. Region 4 is holding a Budget Workshop tonight and the Supervision District budget is ready for a vote.

Lauren Gister reported that she has met with the Superintendent of Schools and the Essex and Deep River Selectmen. Due to many factors, including increased special education costs, the Region 4 Board of Education budget is expected to increase. Additional information will be provided for discussion at a later date.

### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR POLICE SERVICE WITH ESSEX

Lauren reported that Chester currently has an MOU with Deep River, done in 2000. Deep River and Essex just completed a similar agreement, and the First Selectwoman is reviewing a draft of an agreement between Essex and Chester.

The Agreement will provide a structure for mutual assistance between the towns and includes chain of command and wage agreements. The document does not obligate any of the Towns to participate in an event, however, this agreement will be beneficial immediately for public safety personnel and expenses for Chester's upcoming Winter Carnivale. The BOS discussed the length of the initial contract, determining that it should be valid from 2/1/17 through 6/30/19.

Lauren Gister made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the MOU with the Town of Essex for Mutual Police Services. Carolyn Linn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### WINTER CARNIVAL

Carolyn Linn reported that she will finalize plans, including Chain of Command, with the State Police on Monday.

Lauren reported that last year's Winter Carnivale was canceled due to bridge construction and the year before that, it was postponed due to inclement weather. During the planning process for this year's Carnivale, it was estimated that costs for Police services at the event would be approximately \$10,000. Although the Town of Chester has paid for the police services in the past, this amount is 3-4 times what it has been in the past. State Police policies call for increased manning of intersections and traffic and parking control due to world events, keeping roads open for emergency vehicles, and the growth in numbers of the event over the years. Costs for State Police at various other events in the area, including the Deep River Muster, have increased overall. The Town is working with Deep River and Essex to provide police coverage at the event at a lower cost.

It was agreed that for the Winter Carnivale, LLC to contribute \$750 for police services at the event this year, the First Selectwoman will contribute \$1,000 from her community events line item, and the Police Overtime account will pick up the rest. After the event, the committee and town officials will need to determine how the charges for police and traffic coverage are to be paid going forward.

### SELECTWOMAN'S REPORTS

Discussions regarding Bulky Waste were tabled due to time limitations.

Main Street Committee - Carolyn Linn reported that there was a disconnect between the Town's website and the Town's Facebook page regarding the Main Street Committee meeting dates.

Lauren Gister states that the Chair of the Main Street Committee and Jeff Jacobsen are in the process of finalizing a price for the design work on the Main Street III project. Once these figures are finalized, a contract can be signed. When the contract is signed, the next three phases of the preliminary work can begin.

The Chester Energy Team has been gathering information for a Town Meeting regarding the Street Light Project. The Town Meeting will be scheduled on February 15, 2017. The costs for purchasing the lights from Eversource have already been approved at Town Meeting and funds released. This upcoming Town Meeting will explain the final plan for purchase and LED conversion and authorize the contracts and final funding for the project.

A Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast is scheduled on Friday, January 27, 2017.

The meeting was recessed at 7:36 p.m. awaiting BOF members for joint meeting. The meeting resumed at 7:43 p.m.

INITIAL REVIEW OF 2017-2018 BUDGET, JOINT MEETING WITH BOF

Due to lack of BOF quorum, the Joint BOS/BOF Meeting to discuss the budget was canceled.

ADJOURNMENT

Carolyn Linn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Charlene Janecek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Helchowski  
Clerk